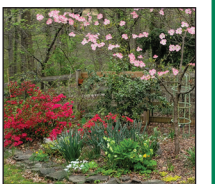


Kyla finds shortcuts, p.16



Garden Party, p.7

Mowatt Church Plans Opening Of Its New Little Free Library

by Melissa Sites

Greenbelt's newest Little Free Library will celebrate its grand opening at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC) this weekend. At littlefreelibrary.org, the Mowatt site is described as "primarily a religious library ... includ[ing] a variety of books, activities and periodicals."

Greenbelter Ellen Noll, lay leader at Mowatt, explained, "My motivation for opening a Little Free Library at Mowatt MUMC was the closing of the church [during quarantine]. We have fabulous resources in our library. Better to have them out and used than sequestered for no one to see." Noll is familiar with the other Little Free Libraries in Greenbelt: "I check [them] out ... on a regular basis. I notice that they are very well main-



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

McKenna Rush Lynch considers a book from the Little Free Library on Maplewood Court.

tained, well stocked and different items rotated in. Some are more kid friendly than others. The one on White Birch in particular has children's crafts."

The Little Free Library movement is strong in Greenbelt, with See **LIBRARY**, page 8

Council Censures Byrd's Use Of FEMA Event as a Soapbox

by Diane Oberg

Mayor Colin Byrd was censured for his remarks at the April 7 press conference marking the opening of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mass vaccination site at Greenbelt Metro Station.

In an item added to the agenda at the meeting, Councilmember Emmett Jordan moved "to formally censure Mayor Byrd for his behavior during the opening ceremony for the Greenbelt Metro Station mass vaccination site." Jordan charged that "the mayor failed to exercise discretion and decorum in carrying out the duties conferred upon him by council and the city charter."

"During the ceremony Mr. Byrd expressed his views as an individual in a context where his role was to speak as mayor," said Jordan. "As the ceremonial head of the city, he was expected to express gratitude to FEMA and to welcome the government leaders who were the city's guests." (See box on page 12 for full motion and separate story on the press conference.) Councilmember Judith Davis seconded the motion.

The censure motion was approved at the April 12 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council. This appears to be the first time council has formally censured one of its members based upon the News Review's check of its archives and the recollections of a couple of longtime city employees.

While any censure motion



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Colin Byrd

was likely to be controversial, the controversy was increased by several factors. Byrd and Councilmember Rodney Roberts both objected to the vote when there had been no advance public notice that the issue would be discussed and, Roberts pointed out, even the item Jordan added at the meeting referred only to the FEMA site with no mention of the intention to censure the mayor. In addition, after comments by Roberts and Byrd, Davis moved to close debate, which Councilmember Leta Mach seconded. Byrd then moved to table but City Solicitor Todd Pounds, in his role as parliamentarian, ruled that the motion to close debate must be voted upon first. The motion to close debate passed on a 5 to 2 vote, the motion to table failed on a 2 to 5 vote and the motion to censure passed on a 5 to 2 vote.

See **CENSURE**, page 12

Byrd Attacks State, County Officials on Vaccine Rollout

by Cathie Meetre

On Wednesday, April 7, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) held a press conference to open its new mass vaccination site at the Greenbelt Metro Station. After mutually congratulatory remarks from Governor Larry Hogan, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and senior representatives from FEMA and the National Guard, Mayor Colin Byrd soured the celebratory tone by sharply criticizing state and county leaders regarding the vaccination rollout and pandemic reopening. Byrd is assumed to be seeking re-election for another two-year term in November's city council election, while simultaneously campaigning for U.S. Senate next year.

Other speakers emphasized the site's goal of increasing vaccine equity on many levels: FEMA provides wheelchairs, along with French, Spanish and Sign Lan-

guage translators and medical personnel to support people with functional needs. Vaccinations are available regardless of immigration status and the on-site military personnel support medical logistics, not law enforcement.

Accusations

Speaking next from notes on his cell phone, Byrd directly accused the governor of "subjecting people of color and people of all backgrounds in places like Prince George's County and Baltimore City to claims of over-entitlement." He stated that, although people of color have a high demand and need for vaccines, "from the early days of the vaccine being rolled out in the State of Maryland, this state has unfortunately been one of the most inequitable in all of America when it comes to vaccine distribution."

See **VACCINE**, page 12



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

The FEMA-sponsored Covid-19 vaccination clinic at Greenbelt Metro

Teachers at SHL Elementary Fight Mold as Well as Covid-19

by Amy Hansen

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Maintenance on Springhill Lake Elementary School, a building that opened in 1966, is non-stop. Except during a pandemic when everything stopped. The lack of upkeep meant that teachers and staff were greeted by mold, missing railings and rodent infiltration, according to letters and pictures sent to the News Review by teachers and staff who work there.

The mold in the classroom and the missing railings were fixed just before the students came back, but teachers still find the physical state of the school

worrisome and disheartening.

Third-grade teacher Philip McQuarrie alerted the News Review about the problems and then answered questions via email. He updated the status on April 9, noting that the building now had a nurse on staff and most of the mold problems in the classrooms were taken care of.

"I would like to emphasize that the current administration has done a fantastic job of listening and responding to concerns," he wrote. "Ms. [Trena] Wilson, the current principal, started as prin-

cipal of this school for the 2019-2020 school year and has had an impossible job. These problems predate her tenure at Springhill Lake and she and the other current administrators, to the best of my knowledge, deserve no blame for the state of the building."

Silke Pope, a Greenbelt City Council member, is employed in the school as a para-professional, or assistant to the teacher. When Pope returned to her classroom in March she took pictures of

See **MOLD**, page 15

What Goes On

Thursday, April 15
1 to 3 p.m. Free Produce Distribution, Community Center
Monday, April 19
8 p.m. Budget Worksession: Miscellaneous/Museum Grants & Contributions/Social Services
Wednesday, April 21
8 p.m. Budget Worksession: Public Works/Capital Projects

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN LAMBERT DAVIS

Members of the Earth Squad help straighten up the Three Sisters Demonstration Garden in Franklin Park on Friday, April 9. See another photo, page 16.

Editorial

Impolitic Politics

On Monday, April 12, Greenbelt City Council rightfully voted to censure Mayor Colin Byrd for his remarks on Wednesday, April 7, when he criticized state and county effectiveness in responding to the pandemic. (See article on page 1 of this issue.) He was speaking in his capacity as mayor at the opening of the FEMA vaccination site at Greenbelt Metro. Byrd spoke at length about his disagreements with the governor and county executive, who were present at the opening. In stating his personal views, Byrd overstepped his official role as mayor and risked the city’s position of trust with county, state and federal leadership.

The Greenbelt city charter defines the role of mayor in our council-manager government. The primary role is to preside at council meetings, represent the city at ceremonial occasions and, with the agreement of his peers on council, to sign off on official business and statements.

Byrd is entitled to express his own views when speaking as an individual or a candidate. However, “free speech” does not entitle any mayor to promote his or her personal views when acting in an official ceremonial capacity on behalf of the city. It is irrelevant whether we personally agree with his point of view and, indeed, this newspaper has several times voiced concern about the county’s lagging vaccine rates – but that’s not the point. It is this city and our council that are likely to pay the price of fractured relationships with county, state and federal governments.

Byrd is well aware of this constraint because a similar incident occurred earlier this year when, having stated he was writing as mayor, he wrote personal and insulting remarks online about another elected official, which were subsequently disavowed by some of his fellow council members.

Byrd turned the FEMA opening into a platform for his personal views. He attacked state and county officials, exploiting his invitation as mayor to advance his own personal agenda and ambitions. This is an abuse of office and has been properly addressed by council. Byrd put his own political ambitions ahead of his duty and responsibility to the city.

Letters to the Editor

A Letter to the Mayor

With all due respect, during the press conference held at the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) vaccination site (Greenbelt Metro Station), when you were with Governor Hogan, you said that Governor Hogan is opening businesses and restaurants “too soon.” There is no scientific definition of too soon. Additionally, you must have a magic wand; as you seem to predict the future.

On March 10, 2021, Texas Governor Abbott opened all Texas businesses to 100 percent capacity. Maryland is far from doing the same. Both Texas and Maryland fall in the same Orange threshold of 10-24 daily new cases per 100,000.

Landlords and businesses including restaurants, banks and other commercial establishments, remain at less than full capacity. They have bills to pay. Some have closed and their employees were laid off. Both have suffered deeply during the pandemic.

Those engaged in virtual training, including children and parents, have been deeply affected. Virtual training is failing, especially in homes of lower incomes, including those in which the parent(s) that don’t have college degrees. Both children and adults have suffered due to the negative psychological effects of isolation. Isolation has led to depression, divorce, separation and physical and emotional abuse, and other problematic activities.

With all due respect, mayor, have you considered the negative impact of all these important issues? You could have called the governor and had a positive conversation expressing your concerns as to when or when not to fully open. By doing so, both you and the governor could have achieved a better understanding of both of your concerns.

Finally, grandstanding serves no one’s interests, including that

of the citizens of our great community. I am sure that Governor Hogan would be grateful for an apology.

Christian Crenshaw

A Rough Journey To a Vaccine

I would like to thank Mayor Byrd for speaking on behalf of Prince George’s County and the City of Greenbelt at the news conference about the Greenbelt Metro Station mass vaccination site. It has been a rough journey for residents of Prince George’s County and Greenbelt to secure

See **LETTERS**, page 4

Correction

In last week’s issue, we inadvertently mis-identified our very own Chief of Police, Richard Bowers. This error has been fixed in the online version of the newspaper.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web
greenbeltnewsreview.com
para ver artículos en español.




See our website,
greenbeltnewsreview.com,
for articles in Spanish.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



The Greenbelt News Review Seeks Advertising Staff

Duties:

- Record incoming display or classified ads
- Advise advertisers on ad sizing and composition
- Size and price ads
- Prepare ads for publication
- Check proofs


Qualifications Desired:

- Working knowledge of Excel, Word & File Explorer
- Ability to organize information and follow processes
- Ability to interact effectively by phone and email
- Attention to detail

We work in the Community Center at one or more of three weekly times. Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m. We take safety to heart and our large office hosts only four staff simultaneously

Compensation: GNR is a worker cooperative. Members receive dividends based on the newspaper’s financial performance. Dividends are token payments only.

To apply: email ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com with a brief description of your qualifications and experience.



YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE.

EVERYONE ELSE, KEEP YOUR MASK ON.

- Pete Reppert



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

One Community

On Sunday April 18, join volunteers from Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG), RUAK, CHEARS and The Space Free Art For All for an art project at each of the Three Sisters Gardens (Schrom Hills, Springhill Lake, Community Center) from noon to 3 p.m.

CAG is a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of residents who gather virtually monthly to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. The group is building multiple resources. The first is research-tested coping strategies for self-care and stress management called Caring and Connecting Toolkit (bit.ly/CAGtoolkit). Residents are invited to share their ideas and help build resources together.

To find out about the group's monthly meetings, email communityconnections.gb@gmail.com.

Green Teams Host Zoom on EVs

Join an Earth Day Environmental Zoom on Sunday, April 25, at 7 p.m. about electric vehicles (EVs): Charging into the Future Today. Presenters will review the status of EVs both now and in coming years. Learn what EVs are, how and where to charge them, and benefits of owning and driving an EV, personally and environmentally. Questions and discussion are welcome and encouraged. Presenters are John Lippert, the city Green Team chair, and Dr. Luisa Robles, the City of Greenbelt sustainability coordinator.

This environmental Zoom series is sponsored by the Green Teams of Greenbelt Community Church, UCC and the City of Greenbelt. RSVP to Jane Young at gccjane@aol.com for Zoom information.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club is still meeting virtually each week, via Zoom or by telephone call-in. The group meets at its regular time, 11 a.m. each Wednesday. We encourage all Greenbelt seniors to participate, whether you are a current member or not. To join the Zoom or phone list, contact Rebekah Sutfin, therapeutic recreation supervisor (Senior & Inclusion Programs) at 240-542-2056 (leave a message) or at RSUTFIN@Greenbeltmd.gov.

On April 28, Dr. Leigh Ryan, a volunteer at Riversdale House Museum, will discuss an exhibit she is working on devoted to enslaved workers. She will talk about the Plummer family, including Adam who was enslaved at Riversdale and his wife Emily who was at Three Sisters in Lanham.

Greenbelt Recreation Is Now Hiring

Greenbelt Recreation currently has full-time and part-time job openings and summer hiring will be starting soon. Among the positions are center leader, park ranger, and park and facilities attendant. For job listings and to apply, check greenbeltmd.gov/jobs.

Virtual Community Time Bank Lecture

The first of a five-part virtual lecture series based on the five core time bank values will be presented this Sunday, April 18 from 4 to 5 p.m. In 1980, Edgar Cahn dreamed up a new kind of money. This new money would have no price: every hour would count the same: 1 hour = 1 hour. Thus, was born time banking, of which our fair city is a participant. Cahn saw this as a way to restore community and to recognize and reward civic engagement. In 1995 he founded the Time Dollar Institute – now known as TimeBanks.org – to promote time banking in the U.S. and around the world.

In the upcoming lectures, Cahn will discuss his five core values of time banking that he outlines in his book, *No More Throw-away People: Asset, Redefining Work, Reciprocity, Community /Social Networks and Respect*. To sign up for the first lecture, use this link: tinyurl.com/yxnfe9rv, or visit the Greenbelt Time Bank page on Facebook: facebook.com/greenbeltimebank and click on the event link. If not a time bank participant, here's a chance to find out what time banking is all about.

For more information about the Greenbelt Time Bank, visit the website GreenbeltTimeBank.org, or email Greenbelt.TimeBank@gmail.com.

Porch Collection Off To a Good Start

RUAK's (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) Porch Greenbelt food drive had a successful first month with its March rollout and April collection on Ridge and Research Roads.

The April collection continues on the third Sunday, April 18, for Boxwood Village as well as Ridge and Research Roads. The next collection date for Woodland Hills will be the second Sunday in May, May 9.

Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer with Porch Greenbelt, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Beltsville Plant Sale By Community Center



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

These are just some of the healthy, beautiful plants available at the Beltsville Garden Club plant sale.

Healthy, beautiful plants will be on offer at the Beltsville Garden Club plant sale, May 1 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Farmers Market usual venue in the parking lot between the Aquatic Center and the Community Center. The plants are grown in the Beltsville Garden Club's greenhouse and profits from their sale will support the host school, James E. Duckworth Regional Center.

Offerings include vegetable seedlings (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and basil), coleus, scented geraniums, baskets, plectranthus, alternanthera, salvia, cyperus, colocasia, hibiscus, and butterfly ginger. Also house plants: gesneriads, begonias, ficus, dracaena, pothos and many succulents.

Community Art Event With Chalk Art Skills

Chalk One Up for Greenbelt! Arts in the Gardens. On Sunday, April 18, from noon to 3 p.m., come to one or all of the Three Sisters gardens and share Chalk Artist Skills in a Community Art Event. Celebrate spring, invigorate the senses, relax the spirit, clear the mind, be inspired to create art and join the fun in an outside, socially distanced, mask-wearing, Greenbelt neighbor-to-neighbor meeting across and among all of our Greenbelt neighborhoods.

Visitors to the Three Sisters garden by the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, off Cherrywood Lane; the Center garden next to the Greenbelt Community Center (follow signs) and; in Schrom Hills Park, off Hanover Parkway, will find canvas and chalk for drawing. Information about the gardens and the CHEARS Seed Program will be available.

Arts in the Gardens is sponsored by Connecting Across Greenbelt, The Space Free Art For All, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) and CHEARS (The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society).

Hope to see residents of Greenbelt come out to support the gardens and to have some arts PHUN. Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler, RUAK, at spreadruak@gmail.com and/or communityconnections@gmail.com for questions.

GHI Plant Swap And Scavenger Hunt

GHI Woodlands Committee is having a seasonal plant swap and scavenger hunt on Saturday, April 17 at 11 a.m. The event will be held at the GHI Office, 1 Hamilton Place (outside).

It's time to take stock of excess garden plants, divide perennials and evaluate blank spaces. Then bring excess plants, divisions, seedlings, seeds and bulbs to the plant swap and prepare to pick up some new plants. Also bring surplus tools that are in good working condition, gardening books, magazines, garden ornaments, etc.

Do not bring houseplants or invasive species such as English ivy, pachysandra, periwinkle, rose of Sharon – there's more than enough of those. Bring a card with a description of the plants. Large objects that are not traded go back home with their respective donors.

Set-up is 11 a.m. and the swap starts with a tour of the available plants at 11:15.

After that, everyone will get a turn to pick out a plant or gardening miscellany until everything is gone. Participants will go around the tables in one direction, maintaining a six-foot distance.

New gardeners who don't have anything for the plant swap can always garner a few tips as well as pick up some plants.

In addition, the committee is bringing back the scavenger hunt, a fun and engaging outdoor family activity to take home and do. Also take home the laminated reusable sheets to look for nature items while walking around Greenbelt throughout the seasons. One is suitable for younger kids, and one for more advanced readers.

All are welcome. For questions contact Lori at loriad33@gmail.com. Participants should follow current Covid-19 guidelines.

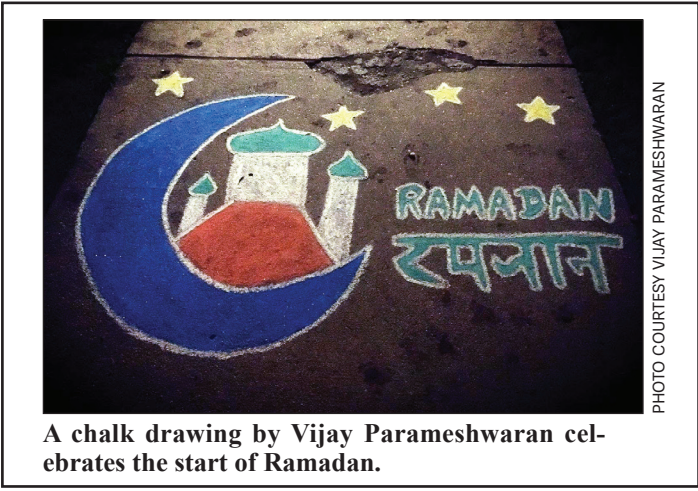


PHOTO COURTESY VIJAY PARAMESHWARAN

A chalk drawing by Vijay Parameshwaran celebrates the start of Ramadan.

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday April 18 at 3pm on ZOOM

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC.

CONNECT WITH GATe ON

Our recessed online Annual Membership Meeting will continue Sunday, April 18, at 3pm.

To receive a link or phone number to join us on ZOOM please email:
greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

We will be voting on three Board Member positions. Anonymous Ballots will be sent to each member's email using Survey Monkey. If you are a member without access to email, a phone number to call to cast your vote will be provided during the meeting.

Closed Captioning services are available for the hearing-impaired. Please log on to our Zoom link a few minutes early to enable set up.

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org by clicking on Channel

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Friday April 16 - Thursday April 22

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CONNECT WITH GATe ON

| | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 7 am | Greenbelt Newsreel | • Local Community Programming |
| 8 am | Democracy Now! | • Repeat of Yesterday's Program |
| 9 am | GATe Classic Film <small>Horror/Comedy • 1963</small> ★★★★★ | • The Comedy of Terrors Vincent Price <small>Peter Lorre • Basil Rathbone • Boris Karloff</small> <small>Directed by Jacques Tourneur Screenplay by Richard Matheson</small> |
| 11 am | Greenbelt Newsreel | • Local Community Programming |
| 12 pm | Democracy Now! | • Today's Syndicated Program |
| 1 pm | Science Bowl PGCPs | • Greenbelt v University Park |
| 2 pm | Music at the New Deal Café | • Annette Wasilik • Folk Singer/Songwriter |
| 3 pm | GATe Classic Film <small>Horror/Comedy • 1963</small> ★★★★★ | • The Comedy of Terrors Vincent Price <small>Peter Lorre • Basil Rathbone • Boris Karloff</small> <small>Directed by Jacques Tourneur Screenplay by Richard Matheson</small> |
| 5 pm | Science Bowl PGCPs | • Greenbelt v University Park |
| 6 pm | Greenbelt Newsreel | • Local Community Programming |
| 7 pm | Democracy Now! | • Today's Syndicated Program |
| 8 pm | GATe Classic Film <small>Horror/Comedy • 1963</small> ★★★★★ | • The Comedy of Terrors Vincent Price <small>Peter Lorre • Basil Rathbone • Boris Karloff</small> <small>Directed by Jacques Tourneur Screenplay by Richard Matheson</small> |
| 10 pm | Music at the New Deal Café | • Annette Wasilik • Folk Singer/Songwriter |
| 11 pm | Democracy Now! | • Today's Syndicated Program |
| 12 am | Greenbelt Newsreel | • Local Community Programming |

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream

Letters continued

Covid vaccinations. Almost everyone I know did not get their shots through the Maryland Department of Health registration site, although we all registered. My husband and I got a phone number from a friend who got it from a relative. We called the number, got appointments, and left with an appointment for the second shot.

Others waited for hours at pop-up sites or drove long distances to get the vaccine. At the Sports and Learning Center, people had to stand in the cold for hours, and then were told to go home and sign up for their second shots. I know only one person who was able to secure a spot at Six Flags.

The Governor and the Maryland Department of Health have done a terrible job of managing vaccine information and distribution, especially for Prince George's County. From the start, when the website listed locations within 10 miles they always had "no appointments available." In addition, there were no descriptions of the sites, which was a problem for a couple with disabilities who could not stand in a long line or make a long trip. When I saw a picture of the Greenbelt site and saw people standing in line, I knew I could not take them there. I wrote to Governor Hogan, and I got a form letter in return.

I want to acknowledge and thank the extraordinary staff at the Co-op Pharmacy. One of the pharmacists asked me if I had been vaccinated; the Co-op had the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. The couple called the pharmacy and got appointments for two days later. The Co-op, like Colin Byrd, is working for their community and the City of Greenbelt. We are fortunate to have our Mayor and our local pharmacists speaking up for us and taking care that our needs are met.

Betty Sonneveldt

Scavenger Hunt Success

Thank you to all of the community members and local businesses that participated in the first ever Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt & photos with the Easter Bunny! Donations made to the department through our Annual Fund Drive and vari-

ous fundraisers make it possible for us to provide no-cost events to the community throughout the year. We truly appreciate the continued support of the community that we serve. Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Officers and Members of GVFD

GHI's Proposed Permit Fees

I oppose the GHI Finance Committee proposal for new \$300 to \$800 permit fees in the strongest terms. The proposal is outrageous! I agree wholeheartedly with Tom and Johanna Jones' comments! They could not have said it better. Please see their comments at spril.com/permitreform.

Kenneth Silberman
Editor's Note: The fee is charged when a permit is needed for work by contractors.

Postal Woes Ode

Oh, postal woes!
Let us count our sorrows.
Yay, where our mail goes,
Tell me, who knows?
A wedding invitation,
A soggy bank statement,
A check twice sent,
An IRS check!
Let me vent.
"Through rain, sleet, and snow,"
Your valiant vows of old.
Bring back our old tried and true,
For the current system is not red, white, or blue.

Mara Hemminger



Two Forest Preserve Walks Honor Earth Day, Lives Lost

by Susan Harris

In honor of Earth Day, celebrate the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, with the assistance and support of the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) Woodlands Committee and Greenbelt's Forest Preserve Advisory Board. Two guided walks will be held on Saturday, April 24 in the Forest Preserve. At 11 a.m., Paul Downs and Susan Barnett will lead a Walk the Maglev Path and Stories of the Woods Hike, guiding participants through parts of the forest preserve that could be destroyed by the proposed SCMaglev train. Walkers also will learn a bit of the history and stories of the forest.

From 2 to 4 p.m., two trained guides, Ana Ka'ahanui and Josh Schwartz, will lead a Forest Bathing Walk. This slow-paced walk through the forest is designed to promote health and well-being by getting hikers out of their overworked heads and into a relaxed, mindful state where they can connect to the natural world through their senses. This practice has been shown to have a variety of health benefits such as boosting immunity; reducing stress, anxiety and de-

pression; and fostering creativity, focus and empathy. The walk will involve various invitations to go deeper into the sensory experience of the forest and will end with enjoying tea together.

Schwartz is an Association of Nature and Forest Therapy (ANFT) trained guide and founder of A Greener Mind. Ka'ahanui is also a trained ANFT guide as well as a co-founder and director of the Capital Nature's Experiential Programs. The program is for those 16 and older.

Group size is limited for each hike; registration is required. To participate contact Susan at suzanbwild@gmail.com or 443-388-2961, specifying which hike.

For both hikes, dress for mud and ticks, and bring a water bottle. Each hike is considered moderately strenuous with some logs to step over and some slippery areas. Covid-19 precautions apply; hikers will wear masks and practice physical distancing.

These events are held to honor Bill Duncan and all those lives lost to the pandemic.

Earth Day – Enjoy Her Gifts, Protect Her.



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

The Bible Says...

Therefore bear fruit
in keeping with repentance
Matthew 3:8



Sunday Worship Services
10a-11a ONLINE
MCFcc.org/online

Greenbelt Community Church

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
God is still speaking

This Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live
Sunday at 10:15
Alike & Akin: Many Faceted Gift

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Some Simple Steps To Stop the Maglev

Are you wanting to take steps against the maglev but don't know what to do and don't have much time? Join Simple Steps to Stop the Maglev. Simple Steps, which can be accomplished in 10 minutes or less (most of the time), are sent three to five days per week and it is optional to follow them. Anyone wanting to join can contact Susan at suzanbwild@gmail.com.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 18 10 a.m.
"SC Maglev - Not the Solution"

Rev. Rachel Christensen; The PBUUC Green Team with Worship Associate Clark Ritz and Special Guests

The Green Team will present a service explaining the SC Maglev project. Implementing it would be done at great cost to our environment, for our lands, citizens, and wildlife. Speakers include Sam Droege, a wildlife biologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and Brian Almquist from StopThisTrain.org We will have time after the service for questions and how you can help by commenting on the DEIS.

ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

Worship with us at
Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 11:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/Youtube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>

www.greenbeltbaptist.org

301-474-4212

@GreenbeltBaptist



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR APRIL 19-23

Monday, April 19 at 8:00pm **BUDGET WORK SESSION re: Miscellaneous Budget including Museum, Grants, and Contributions and the Social Services Budget** *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, virtual

Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Continued discussion of the Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020 Proposal*

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the agenda: NASA Goddard Greenbelt Campus Draft Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan and Update of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan*

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the agenda: Presentation – The Need for a Synthetic Turf Field, Q & A and Public Comment*

Wednesday, April 21 at 8:00pm **BUDGET WORK SESSION re: Public Works Budget and Capital Projects** *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Thursday, April 22 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS** *On the agenda: Special Elections for Vacant Council Seat Draft Memo, Council Referral – Noncitizen Voting Draft Memo and Rank Choice Voting Inquiry Draft Memo*

Thursday, April 22 at 7:30pm, **FOREST PRESERVE TASK FORCE** *On the agenda: Pilot Project discussion with Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, Environmental Coordinator, Master Trail Plan and Trails Plan Draft Outline, Oct. 13, 2020 Task assignments*

Thursday, April 22 at 7:30pm, **FOUR CITIES COALITION**, virtual meeting hosted by Greenbelt.

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT VACCINATION STATION- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All hands on deck! This is not a drill!

FEMA and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is asking for 30 volunteers a day to help out at the Greenbelt Metro Station.

- Please sign up through the Maryland DART system and register. www.mddart.org.”
- If you have problems with DART registration, you can send an email with your availability to GreenbeltCERT@gmail.com.
 - 1) Please include your name, cell number, and dates/times available.
 - 2) Let me know if you would like to be considered for an early vaccination. Volunteer hours may be required before you can be vaccinated.
 - 3) After every volunteer day, please send your hours to GreenbeltCERT@gmail.com so we can credit your time.

Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide



NOW AVAILABLE!
Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation
Summer Camp Registration Start Dates:

Greenbelt Residents:
Monday, April 19 10am

Non-Residents:
Monday, May 3 at 10am

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Employee Relations Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

FOREST PRESERVE TOUR

Saturday, April 17th and Sunday April 18th
Greenbelt Forest Preserve from 1 – 3 pm

Join members of the SCMaglev Opposition Task Force on a guided tour, by members of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, through areas that will be severely impacted by the construction of the SCMaglev in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Participants must register in order to join
- Limited to 25 Participants

To register and for more information: **Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov**



MOONLIT MOVIES

Braden Field
Behind the Youth Center
Fridays, April 2 - May 28

Outdoor movies have been a tradition in Greenbelt since 2014, and this year they will be a safe, fun way to get back to the movies! Greenbelt Recreation and Old Greenbelt Theatre will feature family fun films. This is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt and Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Tickets will be sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre. Purchase a circle for up to 5 household members at \$25 per circle. Event max participation is limited to 100 guests.

Visit <https://greenbelttheatre.org/> for more info.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, AND PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday April 24 2021
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Recycle Your Old Computers and Other Electronics!

Accepted items include: CPUs, monitors, key-boards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires and power cords. Expanded polystyrene (block “Styrofoam” #6). NO Styro-foam cups, egg cartons or food trays.
SORRY, ALKALINE BATTERIES AND TUBE TVs ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.
PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

Yuck Old Paint – PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. In order for paint to be properly used, the contents on the inside need to match the label on the outside. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$50 service fee. Yuck Old Paint, LLC

Questions? Greenbelt Sustainability Office 240-542-2153



Spring Fun Activity Kit



We plan to celebrate Spring this year by providing Greenbelt families with a free Spring Fun Activity Kit.

Wednesday, April 21
4:00pm-7:00pm
Or until they're gone
Springhill Lake Recreation Center
6101 Cherrywood Lane

Greenbelt Recreation is now hiring!

Summer Camp Staff, Lifeguards, Park Rangers, and Recreation Center Leaders

Please visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs to apply now.

Call 301-397-2200 for more information.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



NATIVE PLANTING
SATURDAY, APRIL 24
10 AM – 1 PM

Buddy Attick Park
555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to restore native plant species to the environment around Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove weeds and invasive species, install native plants, and mulch around planting areas. Masks will be required at all times.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Volunteers must register in order to participate

To Register: Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov

For City Services, Events, Meeting, Info and more
www.greenbeltmd.gov
Follow @cityofgreenbelt on
Facebook and Twitter

Apartment Owners Discuss Plans For End of Evictions Moratorium

by Matthew Arbach

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

With the moratorium on evictions ending on June 30, the Greenbelt City Council on April 6 welcomed representatives of several of the city’s apartment complexes to a dialogue concerning their plans on how they will respond to this potential crisis, which could result in a significant amount of homelessness in the city’s renting population. The representatives present all declared their goal and continuing efforts to work with those adversely affected by the pandemic in finding assistance and developing payment plans for past-due accounts. Council echoed its desire for a partnership with property owners in making this coming transition as effective as possible for both tenants and landlords.

The county has established the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) which offers aid to landlords in the relief of their tenants and renters suffering financially due to the pandemic. The representatives present have endeavored to help tenants navigate the application process.

All property owners reported a suspension of late and legal fees, per city ordinance, as well as evictions since the beginning of the emergency.

Ned Tentindo, manager of Charlestowne North, related that for their 178 units and roughly 250 residents, the current rate of delinquency is between 8 and 10 percent, with an occupancy just under 100 percent. Tentindo asserted a win-win outcome for tenants and ownership from extending aid to its renters through programs like ERAP and devising repayment strategies.

Fran Bennett, property manager of Glen Oaks Apartments, revealed a 9 percent delinquency rate, 3 percent of which is Covid-19 related. The 463 units are at 97.5 percent occupancy. So far, no funds from the first round of ERAP applications have been allocated. While a fully formed eviction program is still in the works, the ownership is working with tenants affected by the pandemic. Bennett expressed frustration at a percentage of delinquent tenants who have been able to stay solvent and employed while using the moratorium as an excuse not to pay rent.

Franklin Park General Manager Denise Knight expressed pride at the “above and beyond” efforts of a new Resident Outreach Team, which has extended a helping hand to all its residents in acquiring assistance like ERAP and creating payment plans. Delinquency at Franklin Park (FP) stands at 30 percent.

Attorney Bruce Marcus, representing FP, stated that FP has been “proactive” in these efforts, offering services akin to those normally provided by governmental agencies. He said the goal is “to strike a balance” that will aid tenants as well as help ownership stay financially afloat and continue tenant services.

Jose Jimenez, property manager, and Sabine Brickell, assistant

director of Lerner Enterprises, spoke on behalf of University Square Apartments. Its 495 units are at 17 to 20 percent delinquency, with only 10 residents possessing high past-due balances. Since March 30, the debt stands at \$370,000. Ten applications have been submitted to ERAP. They expect a low number of future evictions.

Brickell said that the rental market has begun to recover with a rise in rents, even as many have sought to purchase homes instead. Councilmember Judith Davis stated that it is a seller’s market now in the housing market with a shortage in affordable housing.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan pressed for a de-escalation in the imposition of late and legal fees when the moratorium ends as renters struggle to pay back missed rent as the best way to move forward.

Knight and Marcus of Franklin Park fielded a series of tough questions from council about issues like trash collection, maintenance and crime. Knight said that the pandemic has intensified the problem of trash, with many more people staying home to work or in quarantine. Council related that they receive frequent complaints from Franklin Park residents about the lack of response to maintenance requests. Mayor Colin Byrd remarked on the long-standing unsafe feeling experienced by residents and visitors to the property, something he was “desperate” to address.

Knight expressed her and her staff’s commitment to improving in these areas, acknowledging that there are lapses, encouraging residents to always reach out. She indicated that since 2010, when ownership transferred to Fieldstone Properties, violent crime has shrunk from roughly 500 incidents per year to around 200. She said that current crime trends revolve mostly around domestic disturbances (a national trend as more people are confined at home) and vehicular incidents. She reaffirmed FP’s partnership with Greenbelt Police, especially Chief Richard Bowers and Community Officer Sharnise Hawkins, in installing cameras in hot-spots and addressing specific issues.

Marcus said that Franklin Park is among the largest residential communities in the mid-Atlantic region, if not the country, explaining the high numbers of complaints as a function of its size and density. He said that in the last 10 years, ownership has made significant capital investments and renovated 80 percent of its units.

Marcus also expressed consternation at the number of tenants unscathed by the pandemic who have used the moratorium as a way to dodge financial responsibility. He hoped the city would take that into consideration in their legislative deliberations on this matter.

Davis asserted that property owners should make their eviction response plans a priority as a possible reckoning is coming sooner than later.

At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via catalog.pgcmmls.info/polaris or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. The library’s Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

All Prince George’s County Public Schools students have access to the library’s online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at pgcmmls.info.

Library Poetry Contest

The Library celebrates National Poetry Month with its second annual Poetry Contest. This year’s theme is: What the Library means to you. Poems must be original works but can be any style or length. There are five contestant categories: Lower elementary (K-3), upper elementary (grades 4 and 5), middle school (grades 6-8), high school (grades 9-12) and adult (age 18+). Submissions will be accepted through April, at pgcmmls.info/poetry. Only one entry per poet is allowed.

Winning poets will receive a gift card, an opportunity to share at an open mic night in May and publication in the Library’s Poetry Hub.

Vaccine Assistance

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) launched an English/Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline on April 1. The number for the hotline is 240-392-3622 operating Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments based on eligibility and availability, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

Read to Hatch Program

PGCMLS offers Hatchlings: Read to Hatch, a program for expectant mothers as a part of the Maryland State Library’s Hatchlings pilot project from March to June. This program is based on the early-literacy Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings program for parents and caregivers of children from birth to 3 years old and the Mother Goose on the Loose Goslings program for pre-mature babies and mothers.

Kids Achieve Club

The Kids Achieve Club program provides academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support. Children of all backgrounds and ethnicities are invited to participate.



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

Crows enjoy a park bench on a cloudy and chilly day near 56 Crescent Road.

Watch Science Bowl 2021 On a Television or Computer

by Frank Gervasi

The Science Bowl playoff rounds have begun!

How will the team of promising young scientists from Greenbelt Elementary School, which shares its Greenbelt neighborhood with Goddard Space Flight Center, fare against their opponents from University Park, with its nearby University of Maryland?

All the students on both teams are exceptionally bright and

knowledgeable. The only underdogs in this arena will be the parents and other adults trying to answer the questions put to these elementary school students. It’s the viewers who will come in last in this competition.

All can see this exciting semi-final match along with other matches on the road to the championship in the always-excellent series, The Science Bowl.

On cable television, tune into Greenbelt Access Television at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. daily on channels 19 FIOS, Comcast 77, and, on a computer, streaming live on the web at greenbeltaccessTV.org. The first episode of the show is on Friday, April 16 and it will run daily through Thursday April 22.

City Notes

Planning and Community Development drafted letters opposing the maglev train project to a State Senator, Anne Arundel County officials and President Biden.

Park rangers assisted the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, clearing fields for authorized practice. Animal Shelter residents are three dogs, one cat, two rabbits and two baby chickens.

Public Works and interested citizens surveyed significant trees in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Horticulture/Parks planted 13 trees for Arbor Day. Fifteen Eagle Scout volunteers removed invasive plants from Buddy Attack Park.

Refuse/Recycling collected 28.93 tons of refuse and 10.85 tons of recyclables. Building Maintenance repaired lights at Braden Field and prepared the pool for inspection.

Greenbelt Museum staff, with the Maryland Municipal League, filmed a virtual flag parade.

Recreation offerings include Spring Classes, Moonlit Movies, Activity Kits, Fit Family Hour, Summer Camps and Fit Club. Therapeutic Recreation monitored Zoom classes and meetings and facilitated meal delivery for 34 seniors.

CARES’ virtual GED spring session began with 15 students.

Vaccination Center At Greenbelt Metro

On April 7, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened a new Covid-19 vaccination center at the Greenbelt Metro Station, providing over 3,000 vaccinations per day.

People seeking vaccines must pre-register with the State of Maryland to obtain an appointment at this site. Pre-register online as soon as possible at maryland.gov, and select Greenbelt Metro Station as the preferred site. Or call the state’s Vaccination Support Center at 855-634-6829 to pre-register.

Residents who have already pre-registered with the state and live in nearby zip codes DO NOT need to pre-register again with the state to receive an appointment.



Greenbelt Garden Boosters

Invite YOU
To our first event of 2021

A
Garden Party

at 58 Lakeside Drive
(Mary Lou's Garden)

Saturday, April 24 from 10 to 4
(rain date Sunday, April 25)

Wear Mask
Social Distance



Boosters Extend Invitation To Garden Party, April 24

by Susan Harris



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Mary Lou Williamson’s garden is especially striking in spring (and summer, and fall).

Enjoy spring and fellow Greenbelters in the spacious and beautiful lakeside garden of Mary Lou Williamson from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 (rain date April 25). The address is 58 Lakeside Drive.

The garden includes planting beds, a waterfall and pond, and numerous winding paths with trilliums, hepaticas and hellebores dotting the slope from the house down to the city path around Greenbelt Lake.

Covid-19 precautions will be in place, of course. Guests are asked to wear face masks whenever possible and stay at least six feet apart. The event will be outdoors at all times (with one easily accessible bathroom available). Refreshments will be Covid-19 safe. And to keep attendance spread out over the six hours of the party, guests whose last names start with A through H

are asked to come from 10 a.m. to noon; I through P from noon to 2 p.m.; and Q through Z from 2 to 4 p.m. No RSVP is required.

The party is planned and hosted by the Old Greenbelters Garden Boosters, of which Williamson is a member. The Boosters are an informal group that plans events and resources to help Greenbelters garden. In 2020 the group hired a pruning expert to instruct Greenbelters in the correct pruning of the city’s famous but difficult-to-manage hedges. Then, in lieu of in-person garden tours, the Boosters created nine video tours of outstanding Greenbelt gardens. Greenbelt gardeners interested in joining the Boosters can contact Susan Harris at gardenersusan@gmail.com.

Williamson is otherwise known as the longtime editor of the Greenbelt News Review.



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Bloodroot is a native early spring ephemeral.

Career Kickstart Library Program

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System continues its four-part Career Kickstart series on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. to gain valuable skills necessary to achieve employment in the public workforce. Learn basic computer and job searching skills, résumé writing and interview etiquette, as well as discover online resources to assist with the job search.

Remaining dates and topics for each session of the series: April 19, Résumés that Represent; April 26, Interviews that Impress. Registration is required, and sessions can be attended individually.

Budget 2022

Planning, Economic Development Departments Meet with Council

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt Planning and Economic Development Departments have faced a year of unprecedented challenges and made significant accomplishments adapting to the sweeping changes brought on by the pandemic. Representatives of both groups met with the Greenbelt City Council on March 31 to review their budget proposals and share the highlights of their work this past year.

Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby related that her department has transitioned to 100 percent teleworking. Planning newcomer Holly Simmons, Hruby said, has “settled right in.” Staff have successfully handled many reviews and permitting issues. Hruby asserted during the period roughly between 2010 and 2012, the department was fully staffed, yet even those staff numbers would be insufficient considering the city’s growth in the last 10 years.

Code inspections continue to be virtual, with Supervisory Inspector Gilberto Cabrera saying that they have been successful with only minor issues. The department has a shortage of code inspectors and plans to hire at least one more. Council was keen on increasing the code enforcement staff, especially as related to Franklin Park, where, said Councilmember Judith Davis, “things are beyond belief.” Their maintenance staff cannot keep up with demands, resulting in a loss of quality of life. Cabrera said that he and his staff spend 25 to 30 percent of their efforts in Franklin Park alone.

Illegal dumping at the city apartment complexes continues to be a severe problem during the pandemic and is viewed with zero tolerance and met with violations.

On the status of the food truck operation in the city, there was general agreement that the city should look into at least changing the city code to allow trucks in more areas of the city, outside the mandated food truck hubs established by the county, as it allows truck owners to better make a living and draw more people to Greenbelt. Davis stressed though that “the law is the law,” and that it must be adhered to by all nonetheless.

Evictions

Hruby informed that Planning, along with Greenbelt CARES, has been part of the Evictions Prevention Learning Lab pro-

gram, which includes 22 states and 30 cities, with Greenbelt and Baltimore being the only two cities from Maryland. This 18-month program has proved a valuable educational resource and networking tool, which staff hopes will help define the role the city must take when the moratorium on evictions comes to an end.

Councilmember Edward Putens asserted that the city will be the first responder at that time and must be ready to provide assistance with “dignity and respect.” Resident Bob Rand hoped for transparency in how the city allocates funding to housing and in how it keeps people housed.

Davis and Councilmember Emmett Jordan hoped that proper maintenance of all three of the city’s historic cemeteries be part of the budget, as they are an important part of the city’s legacy.

Jordan was firm in wanting the construction of at least three bikeshare stations in the near future, as there was no excuse for their continued delay.

Planning still wants a shuttle that would service the city’s three shopping areas as a priority, but noted it would be costly to buy, staff and maintain and require a large ridership to be viable.

The Greenbelt Station pathway to the Greenbelt Metro station has been delayed five to six months due to the pandemic but continues to move forward through its permitting process.

The Buddy Attick Park parking lot upgrade, estimated to cost \$600,000, is still in the bidding process and awaiting final council approval. Currently, the city has only roughly \$300,000 allocated in the budget for the project.

Economic Development

Economic Development Coordinator Charise Liggins outlined the many efforts faced and completed this past year in the preservation, revitalization and general survival of the city’s diverse business community. Her

extensive outreach has provided relief information, strategies for transitioning to a virtual and pandemic-safe operating approach, and communication and networking between all sectors of the business community. The business improvement fund helped 20 businesses weather this emergency. The goal remains to bring more business to Greenbelt.

The office vacancy rate, while not at a desirable percentage, has managed to remain mostly the same: at 15.7 percent previously and at 17.2 percent this year. Liggins said that “the verdict is still out” in regard to how or if this trend will return as many businesses are contemplating either a fully virtual or a partly in-person, hybrid plan. One building in the Patriot Business Park (on Walker Drive near TGI Fridays in the former Golden Triangle) has returned to almost 100 percent occupancy.

Liggins suggested the hiring of a temporary researcher to provide a comprehensive study of the business situation, perhaps in the form of a college intern who could be funded by a partnership between the city and business community.

The suggestion from several at the meeting was to convene focus groups of specific business types for maximum effectiveness.

Resident Catherine Grath declared that this was a year of “social reckoning” for the business community, stressing the need to build connections, celebrate its diversity and develop inclusion.

Liggins said that while this year has seen great accomplishments, there was still “a long way to go” as the city looks to “move the needle” toward a hoped-for recovery.



STEER into SPRING

Get a New or Used Car with Terms up to 84 Months & Rates as low as 1.99% APR*

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Credit Union reserves the right to terminate or amend this offer at any time without notice. All loans are subject to credit approval. Rates may vary as it is determined by an evaluation of credit, amount, term and other factors. Payment example: new auto loan of \$25,000 for 84 months at 1.99% APR will have a monthly payment of \$319.10. Offer does not apply to Credit Union internal refinances or previously funded auto loans. Certain restrictions and conditions may apply. The offer cannot be combined with other offers. Equal Opportunity Lender.

Greenbelt
Federal Credit Union

LIBRARY continued from page 1

at least seven chartered libraries and uncounted unchartered libraries. Mowatt’s library is Charter #114201. This number means that worldwide, there are more than 100,000 Little Free Libraries in over 100 countries. The mind-boggling growth of this neighborly volunteer movement has occurred since the first one was built just over 10 years ago in 2009 by Todd Bol of Hudson, Wis., in the shape of an old-fashioned little red schoolhouse, to honor his mother, who was a school teacher. Bol and his friend Rick Brooks were inspired by the example of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who built over 1,600 public libraries in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their initial goal of 2,508 Little Free Libraries was rapidly surpassed, and Little Free Library was incorporated as a nonprofit in 2012.

The Mowatt Little Free Library is listed at littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap, a searchable resource that shows the location of registered libraries. Libraries in Greenbelt, listed chronologically by charter number, include Charter #4388 at 110 Greenhill Road, “The first Little Free Library in Greenbelt, Md. This library shares our love of literacy and books with the community that has nurtured and sustained us for 35 years and our grown children all their lives;” #11828 at 1 Pinecrest Court; #23158 established by the MakerSpace on Roosevelt Center; #95220 at 4 Greentree Place; #98689 at 25 Ridge Rd (located on the garden

side between 25 Ridge and 2 Gardenway); #102211 sponsored by the Radiant Society at 110 White Birch Court; and #114102, Kid’s Bookcase at the corner of Maplewood Court and Lakeside Drive (started during the pandemic, Amy Hansen stocks this library with used children’s books obtained from Robert Harper at My Dead Aunt’s used book store in Hyattsville).

Near the unregistered library on Ridge Road near the Elementary School (alongside a community herb garden), a passerby browsing the books said he would be happy to see even more Little Free Libraries. They have been an important source of low-contact browsing during quarantine, enabling neighbors to share reading material safely while access to public libraries has been restricted. The presence of these libraries contributes to an open and friendly feeling in a neighborhood. A Little Free Seed Library was recently established at 4 Laurel Hill Road.

Greenbelter Chris Winters, a librarian at McKeldin Library,

University of Maryland, was seen crossing Roosevelt Center carrying four books, including an Arcadia Publishing book of historic pictures of Capitol Hill. When asked if he had obtained the books from the nearby MakerSpace library, he said yes, two of them came from that library and two from a different one. He said the best books he had ever found in a Little Free Library were music books featuring the works of Bob Dylan and Hank Williams. This librarian said, “I’ve been pleased enough by what I’ve found to keep checking back. You never know what you’ll find. Since I visit, I try to give back. I really want them to stay.”

At the Grand Opening of the Mowatt Library, 40 Ridge Road, on Saturday, April 17, at 10 a.m., Judith Davis, of the Greenbelt City Council, will act as master of ceremonies, along with Pastor Fay Lundin and Noll. Donuts will be available at the festive occasion. All are welcome; social distancing and masks will be required.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

This repurposed box near the Mowatt MUMC labyrinth will soon become Greenbelt’s latest Little Free Library.



New Listings!



119 Lakeside Drive
5 beds | 3 baths
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The Vizsla Who Loved Greenbelt

by Marat Moore

Our beautiful Zoe died at 15 years and four months on March 26, 2021 in Jonesborough, TN, where her parents, Steve and Marat, moved in 2014 from 19-E Hillside Road, where she spent her first seven years.

Greenbelt was Zoe’s paradise. Our first inkling of the joyful and whimsical dog community came early in 2006, when we’d just brought Baby Zoe home. I heard a knock, and opened the door to see two unknown women bearing gifts.

“We’re here for a puppy shower!” Linda Guttman announced. Her Bella, we learned, was Queen of the Greenbelt Vizslas, and she and Eva Fallon eyed Zoe as a potential Princess. They gave her Vizsla-themed gifts and welcomed her—and us—into a warm new world.

Zoe’s joy was in Northway Woods. Every morning at 6 a.m.—in snow, ice, any weather—local animal guru Janet Hughes, and later Eva, led a group of “red dogs” on a four-mile trek, coming out by the mulch pile at sunrise. I often went with them through the pre-dawn woods. It was magical to see Zoe, Chuba, and Janet’s Vizsla, racing in red-gold arcs along creek beds.



PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

Zoe is third from the left.



PHOTO BY CYNDI SMITH

She was a Daddy’s girl, but Zoe also loved her early caregivers Helen and Don Comus and neighbors on Hillside Road; Laurie Rabideau, Howard Broadnax, Janet and Keith Zevallos, Cyndi Smith, and Diane Wogoman. She would tug me to their front doors, wagging her tail, wanting to play with her human friends and Laurie’s dog Chachi.

One Labor Day weekend, Zoe proudly marched in the parade as the Greenbelt News Review’s honorary “News Hound,” a copy of the paper flapping on her back.

After we moved to my native northeast Tennessee, friends would talk to me about their “pets.” I would gently ask, “Do you mean your companion animal?” and watch their brows furrow. Only in Greenbelt!

We were blessed that Zoe lived to an old age. Our companion animals seem to bypass our fraught minds and set up commodious lodging in our hearts, knocking down walls and making themselves comfortable. They teach us unconditional love, how to live simply and in the present moment, and finally, how to face death. I want to thank our dog-loving friends for all the good times, and hope everyone in Greenbelt is enjoying a beautiful spring after this very long year.

One last wag of the tail! For Zoe, as for me: Once a Greenbelter, always a Greenbelter! When the virus calms down, I plan to bring some of Zoe’s ashes to scatter in Northway Woods. And look up old friends.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY



PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

New Details Are Compiled On Maglev Train Proposal

by Matthew Arbach

New information has been made public about the proposed SCMaglev train project. Councilmember Judith Davis compiled this information from four separate meetings: the SCMaglev Strategy Group on March 30, the Maglev Town Hall hosted by County Councilmember Danielle Glaros on March 30, the Don't Be Fooled by the Maglev by the Prince George's Young Democrats on April 2 and the 295 Coalition on April 3.

Some general issues include: a failure of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to acknowledge the existing transportation systems, with federal funding likely to upgrade existing rail and commuter systems; the diverting effect the maglev will have on existing rail and commuter systems, including ridership; and the absence by Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) of anticipated ridership numbers and the maglev's inability to reduce regional traffic congestion, as it is not a regional transportation system.

There are serious safety considerations. Similar trains in Japan and Germany are only in a testing phase, with only test tracks in use. Germany has seen a fatal crash with high loss of life. In Japan, there is skepticism regarding the train's viability. The technology in use is still novel to the U.S. and if built here, it will be the first time such a system would be used commercially. In the case of an accident, the spacing between the fresh air and emergency egress would hinder passenger and employee rescue.

In regard to jobs, efforts at enhancing existing rail and com-

muter systems would lead to an equal number of jobs. The maglev's potential number of jobs appears to be misrepresented, with the eventual number of actual, permanent jobs past completion in the range of 390, a number equal to what improving existing systems would provide.

There would be distress on some archeological sites in minority neighborhoods that the maglev would impact.

Shock waves would result from trains exiting the tunnels.

Regarding tunnels, 7.75 miles are planned for, leading to the removal of 23 million cubic yards of contaminated refuse, whose removal is uncertain. The thousands of trucks used to remove the detritus would greatly affect and damage the local roadways, a process that would be constant over a period of years. The chemicals employed in the boring process are dangerous and their disposal and containment are unclear. In the areas of Greenbriar and the Forest Preserve, the tunnel's depth below ground becomes small near the transition portal between tunnel and elevated guideway.

The elevated flyways would be 150 feet high, overtopping the tree line. Their construction will require the burial or relocation of utility lines. Clearcutting around the flyways will be necessary to accommodate construction, maintenance and roadways. Wildlife and hikers could be impacted by fencing. Along the route, power substations will be erected.

Vibration issues are expected, affecting building foundations and causing cracks, leading to water penetration.

The above ground flyways could impinge on existing buildings, some as close as 75 feet.

A major detriment will be the required removal or closing off of the Spellman Overpass, of significant use and importance to Greenbelt and the safety of its high school students.

The maglev will likely find little use or advantage by minority or low-income residents and both groups will be the most adversely impacted by its proximity.

Whereas previously, funding for the maglev was to be private, federal and state subsidies and grants are now proving necessary, leading to uncertainty if the project fails to happen. Five billion dollars have been invested by a Japanese bank with federal funds already being used in this planning phase. The projected cost of the maglev has risen from \$13.8 billion to \$16.8 billion.

How the maglev will affect ground water, aquifers, underground springs and the area's hydrology is unknown, as much of these will be diverted.

Some of the environmental concerns include the precedent set by having a private corporation take over public land, in this case managed by Congress – for example, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Patuxent Research Refuge and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway itself. Also a potential issue is the pollution resulting from car washing and maintenance chemicals, energy use five times that used by conventional steel track railways, electro-magnetic frequency radiation and uncertainty around the disposal of water used in tunnel penning.

Reel and Meal Presents Film on Mob Violence

On Monday April 19, Reel and Meal will feature Ram ke Naam (In the Name of God). The film begins at 7 p.m.; entry to the Zoom event starts at 6:45 p.m. Discussion will follow the film. Registration is required, using the link tinyurl.com/ReelMealApr.

This 1991 documentary examines the events leading up to the destruction of the Babri Masjid, one of the largest and oldest Muslim places of worship in India. In 1990, the right wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Hindu nationalist organization, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), began a political rally aiming to create support for building a temple on the Muslim site to the Hindu deity, Rama. In 1992, after the events of the film, a rally at the site involving more than 100,000 VHP and BJP activists degenerated into a violent demolition of the mosque. Waves of violence between Hindus and Muslims erupted all over the country, killing over 2,500 people. The film thus depicts how the rhetoric of religion and hate can escalate into mob violence, with obvious relevance to many recent events in the United States.

Note: the film is in Hindi with English subtitles; to read the subtitles, plan to view it on a computer rather than a phone. The film includes some violent scenes.

This month's Reel and Meal is organized by the Prince George's

County Peace and Justice Coalition together with its sister organization, Peace Action Montgomery County. Tasnuva Khan with Peace Action-Montgomery County will lead the discussion following the film, with Ruchira Gupta and Sana Qutubuddin as panelists. Gupta is a journalist and activist, and the founder of Apne Aap, an NGO focused on women's rights. Qutubuddin is the National Advocacy Executive for the Indian American Muslim Council, and has written extensively on Hindu nationalism in India and the United States.

As part of the monthly documentary series, Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket offers for sale its usual vegan meal in support of Reel and Meal's mission. This month's menu features Indian cuisine: Macro vegetarian chick-pea masala and rice with samosa dumplings and steamed cauliflower. To order, call 301-474-0522 by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 19 and ask for the deli, for pick-up at the deli between 4 and 7 p.m.

For information on this month's program, go to Reel and Meal Facebook page or contact Vijay Parameshwaran at vijay.pwn@gmail.com.



Local Team Hosts Robotics Scrimmage



The local Air Tigers robotics team will be hosting an in-person robotics scrimmage.

Combining the infectious enthusiasm of competitive sports with the rigors of science and technology, the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) challenges teams of high school students to build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams.

Each team operates like a small business, where time and resources are limited, fundraising

and team branding are essential, and respect and appreciation for STEM are built within the local community.

Although the pandemic has limited the regular FRC season of play, the DC Invitational FIRST Robotics Competition will be held live at the Washington Education Zone, Wagner Gym, 8401 Good Luck Road, Lanham (between Hanover Parkway and


Cipriano Road), on Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25.

This event will be hosted by the Airtigers.org Community Robotics Aerospace Interact Club and the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. each day. For additional details, see airtigers.org/frc-challenge. The DC Invitational FRC will strictly adhere to Prince George's County Covid-19 guidelines.

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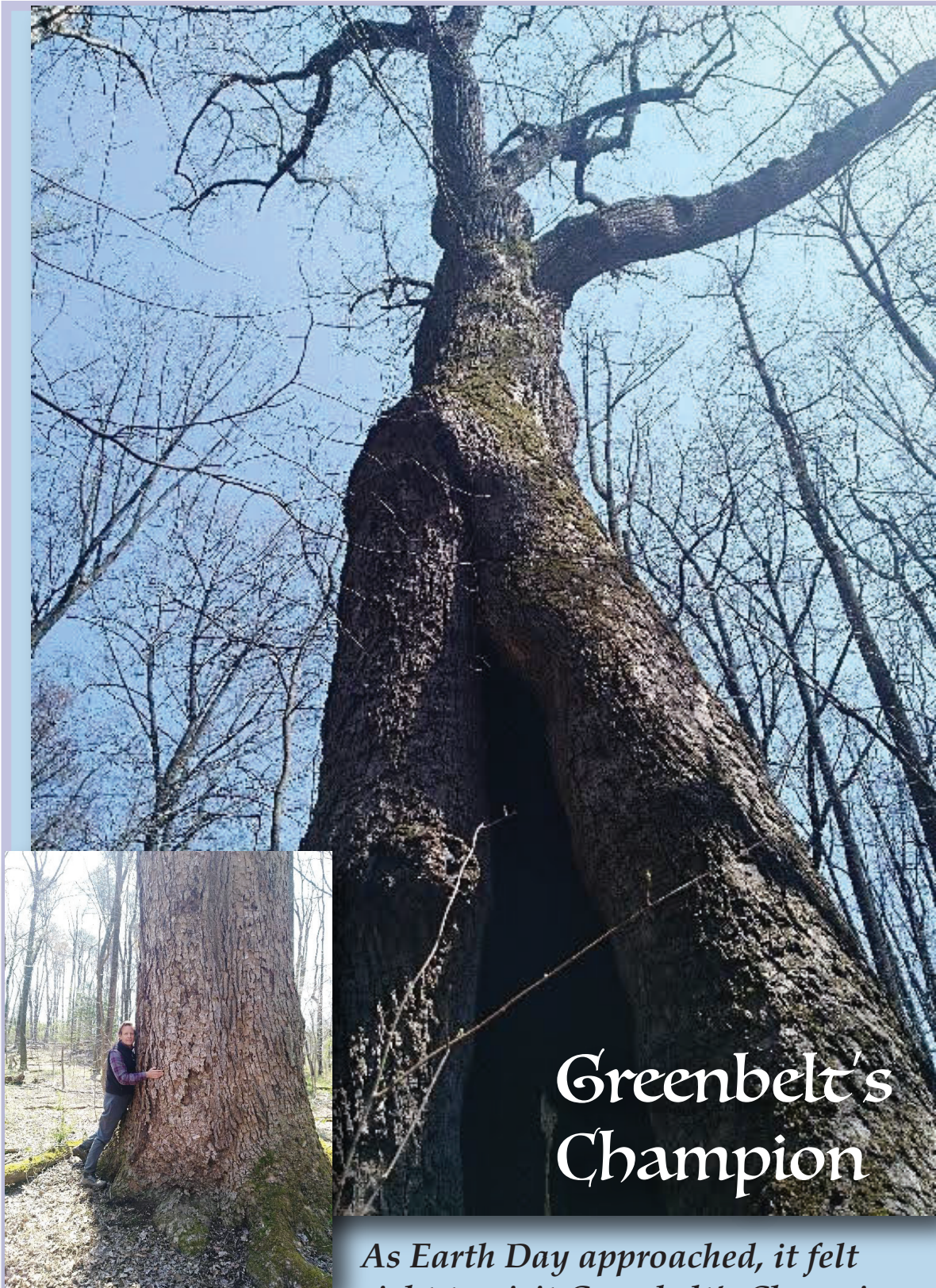
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Greenbelt's Champion

By Paul Downs

President of
The Committee
to Save the Green Belt

There is an easy way to speak up. Sign up to receive **Simple Steps to Stop the maglev** where in a few minutes a day you can help to save the Greenbelt Forest Preserve and its Great Mother Tree. Email suzanbwild@gmail.com to be added to the list.

***The SCMaglev is a high-speed rail that would tear through the heart of our Greenbelt Forest Preserve, destroying everything in its path.**

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As Earth Day approached, it felt right to visit Greenbelt's Champion Tree that could very well be killed by maglev. I also knew the cherished Greenbelt Forest Preserve, where she lives, could very well be massacred by **maglev***. But I was going anyway!

Maybe enough people will speak up and the Great Chiefs of the land will see that Greenbelt is special and should continue to flourish onward. *Why miss out on a beautiful spring day in our forest when the better angels of our leaders could prevail?* So I let go, as each step led me into the colorful cool day. By the time I arrived at my destination the peace of the woods had infused itself deeply in my soul.

I was more than seventy feet from the Giant when I called out, *"Your roots come past me. I've never seen an interior forest tree take up so much space as you. I'm marveling at the likelihood that there are trees for miles and miles around sifting your pheromone scent and knowing they are in the midst of a Great Mother Tree. I remember the day we met 35 years ago. The city had piled mulch way, way, up high, and unable to resist, I laid my bike down and climbed to the top. Gazing at the distant tree line of forest I noticed, You, rising lofty over the rest of the trees. After two days I found you and have been amazed ever since."*

Stepping closer towards the Giant I can see that from every angle she's a spirited dame. Most of the sky-touching elders I've met vault straight upwards but this matriarch has hips 50 feet up that sway in hulking assurance. From there, her arched torso rises curvingly up another 50 feet to her shoulders,

where her plume of sky-touching branches expressively pays a glorious tribute to every hour of every day. When you stand next to this nineteen-foot circumference immensity, you see that *time takes its time*. She's the hand reaching out from the past touching you.

"It must've taken a mighty, mighty, long time for you to get this gigantic. You've been thriving here, easily, for 200 years--which means you were reigning over this land on *April 8th, 1864 when the 13th Constitutional Amendment was signed abolishing slavery*. I wonder if the freedom bells could be heard ringing through your queenly arms?" I shook my head in astonishment, *"You were standing here on November 19, 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg address."*

"My goodness, come to think of it, on the morning of January 13th, 1936 you'd already been towering here more than a hundred years later when work crews began constructing Greenbelt. *Who would have thought all these years later that Greenbelt would be facing its own Gettysburg? Who would have thought Greenbelt's freedom to choose its own destiny could potentially be stripped away by a foreign company called maglev?*"

I stood quietly taking in the forest for a while as the wind began stiffly blowing in the high branches. All the trees swayed back and forth except for the matriarch who stood unflinchingly resolute exuding the power to stand another 200 years or more.

"I wonder how many blizzards you've stood strong in. I wonder how many first spring mornings have swept across your leaves. I wonder how many fourth of July's twilight last gleaming has shimmered your summer canopy, or how many bombs bursting in air have echoed through your cavernous chambers. *And how many times, dear tree, has the joyous ruckus of children on the Halloween pumpkin trail tingled your autumn leaves?*"

"I come to see you, great tree, and I don't know if I should be saying goodbye. I don't know if Greenbelt should be saying goodbye to what *We Are*. *What is it to have your namesake wiped off the map? What is it to have the promise of a green utopia surrounding affordable housing gone forever?* Oh, Great Mother Tree, you should know Greenbelt is nervously watchful for ourselves and the forested ones right now! *What will it be like for You to have spent your entire life as a towering benediction upon the land only to be plowed under as if you never existed?*"

"There are very few people I've revealed your location to because you're such a beauty and I know elders like you should not have your roots treaded on. I have always wanted to keep you a secret to protect you but now I have to tell your story to save you. I can only earnestly plead to anyone that might ever find you that they take the Greatest Care and give you space to flourish onward."

I went and rested my hand on the Giant looking up. *"Soon, Mother Tree, we'll find out. Do we live in a world where Greenbelt's 84-year-old namesake and history mean anything?* And wonder how many butterflies your tulip flowers have blissfully fed since you germinated here centuries ago. *How many gallons of water purified? How many, how many...?* For now, I'll sit with you, Greenbelt's Champion, and sense the deep-rooted continuum you give to our beloved Greenbelt. "

Budget 2022

Council Informed of Challenges In Current and Future Budgets

by Diane Oberg

The General Government budget funds the administrative activities of the City of Greenbelt including the offices of the city council, city manager, city clerk, finance, economic development, elections, human resources and information technology. It accounts for 13.1 percent of City Manager Nicole Ard’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22, which starts July 1) expenditures. The proposed expenditures of \$4,102,100 represent an increase of 10.6 percent from the current year’s adopted budget but just 1.6 percent from estimated expenditures. This budget was discussed at a March 24 work-session.

Challenges

In 2020, the state legislature passed legislation raising the statewide minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025. Prince George’s County will no longer have its own minimum wage but will observe the state level. The minimum wage increased to \$11.75 in January. The budget writeup points out that the increase over several years from \$7.25 to \$11.75 means summer camp revenues will no longer fully finance the camps’ expenses. The planned increase to \$15 per hour in 2025 will require fee increases and/or subsidies from general tax revenues to maintain these programs, according to the budget notes.

City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon noted that city programs and operations are close to or past the size that the community can afford. She cautioned that future salary and benefit costs could be hard to afford if there were an economic downturn. However, Councilmember Emmett Jordan thought it likely that the city would need to add a couple of staffers over the next few years to serve the new residents in Greenbelt Station and the apartments being built on Cherrywood Lane.

Human Resources (HR) Director Mary Johnson agreed with Councilmember Judith Davis’ observation that the city is getting fewer applicants than in the past for its postings. She said that typically most vacancies are for police officers and communications specialists. Not that many people, she believes, want to work in those “very hard jobs.” In addition, she believes that the city’s compensation levels are starting to fall below other jurisdictions. The city plans to conduct a compensation study in FY22 to determine if that is true.

Another challenge is maintaining the city’s aging facilities and infrastructure. Even its newer buildings, such as the Aquatic & Fitness Center and Police Station are now more than 30 years old (the Public Works facility is the exception, having opened in April 2009) and the theater, Community Center and outdoor pool are all over 80 years old, although they have been renovated.

The written budget comments point out that the city has, in recent years, attempted to pay for the necessary repairs and upgrades on a pay as you go basis. However, that approach has not generated sufficient funds to meet

its infrastructure needs. Council met with its financial advisors earlier in this worksession to explore options for financing future capital projects. That discussion will be reported separately.

FY22 Proposal

No change is proposed to the level of staffing, although the city will have to hire a new assistant city manager (expected to occur in the current fiscal year) and HR director. With many long-term employees, the city is experiencing significant turnover. Davis pointed out that HR has processed seven retirements to date and Johnson estimates that 10 more employees will retire by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

HR was also instrumental at foiling several fraudulent unemployment claims, which Johnson called a nationwide problem. Scammers are obtaining enough personal information to file an unemployment claim, usually against a higher-ranking employee, then attempting to intercept the check when it arrives. These claims are sent to the city for verification. The city caught these invalid claims so no fraudulent payments were issued.

Ard is restoring some of the training and conference costs that were put on hold to cope with the economic impact of the pandemic. This will be reflected in each of the accounts in General Government as well as across other city departments. Mayor Colin Byrd wanted to add the U.S. Council of Mayors and the African American Mayors Association to the list of supported conferences. He felt that any councilmember should be able to attend conferences of an organization they see as possibly benefiting the city. Davis was cautious calling for consideration of the size of this city relative to the cost of joining and the potential benefits. She suggested this be discussed further at the final budget worksession. Byrd also called for council to reconsider its membership in the Chamber of Commerce since that organization has supported maglev, thus working against Greenbelt’s interests, in his view.

This is an election year, so Ard has budgeted \$47,000 for elections, up from \$30,972 for the 2019 election. The increase reflects the cost of paying election clerks and judges, obtaining voting machines and technical support, and compiling the community questionnaire, as well as the cost of preparing and printing election notices and publications.

A major expense involves the finance department. The city’s financial system will no longer be supported by the vendor. The city does not yet have a contract for a replacement system but Ard has included \$400,000 in the special projects fund for this purchase. Support costs for the financial system are also expected to increase.

The budget for Information Technology is second only to administration within the General Government account. Ard has proposed spending \$809,200 in FY22, 3.5 percent above the FY21 adopted budget. FY21 expenditures, however, are es-

timated at \$834,000, 6.7 percent above budget, as it helped the city move into the virtual world. For the upcoming year, the department plans to upgrade its computers to Windows 10 and continue systematic camera upgrades and expansion, among other activities.

Legal costs have significantly increased since FY20 but may still be understated. The FY21 adopted budget of \$235,000 represented a 25 percent increase over the previous year. However, the estimated expenditures are well above that level coming in at \$475,000, largely reflecting the cost of fighting maglev. FY22 expenditures are proposed to drop back to \$435,000. Jordan pointed out that there are likely to be additional legal costs related to projects such as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing proposed move to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the proposed Royal Farms gas station, which are not reflected in the budget.

For the first time in recent years, the expenses for Public Information and Community Promotion are not expected to be fully covered by the franchise fees paid by the city’s cable TV providers. Expenditures are projected to increase to \$386,000, up 4.3 percent from the adopted budget for the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, the franchise fees are expected to drop from \$385,000 to \$309,000, leaving a \$77,000 gap. Interestingly, in this virtual pandemic world, expenditures in this area in the current fiscal year are expected to be 7.5 percent less than the adopted budget, nearly all due to lower than anticipated salary and benefits.

The staff in this area will be working to create a hybrid live/virtual meeting format when council resumes in-person meetings and to determine how to close-caption such hybrid meetings. Public Information and Communications Coordinator Beverly Palau expressed confidence that no additional equipment would be required to support hybrid meetings.

Library Scam Alert

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has learned that customers may be receiving fraudulent phone calls, text messages or emails requesting payment for outstanding library fines and fees. These communications are spam and not authorized by PGCMLS. The Library has been fine-free since July 1, 2020. Official communications regarding lost material fees are sent via email.

Those who receive a message they suspect is fraudulent should notify PGCMLS at pr@pgcmls.info or 240-455-5451.

Individuals are also encouraged to report the fraudulent activity to the following agencies:

- Prince George’s County Police Department Financial Crimes Unit, 301-699-2940
- Maryland Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division, 410-528-8662
- Federal Trade Commission, 877-382-4357.

Arbor Day 2021



From left, Councilmembers Judith Davis, Emmett Jordan, Silke Pope and Leta Mach help plant a new red budtree on the hillside next to the Community Center as the city celebrates Arbor Day on April 10. The group planted three other redbuds and three blackgum trees.



Members of City Council, including Ed Putens, Silke Pope, Leta Mack, Judith Davis, and Emmett Jordan, as well as Charles Jackman and Bob Trumbule from the Advisory Committee on Trees, gather to celebrate Arbor Day.

- Photos by Jennifer Sterling



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LEGAL NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts associated with the demolition of Building 11A at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) located in Beltsville, Prince George’s County, Maryland. This notice announces the availability of the EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment.

The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and describes the proposed action, alternative action, and the no action alternative. Under the proposed action alternative, the Secretary would approve the demolition and removal of Building 11A followed by the return of the site to pre-construction conditions, where feasible. Building 11A is considered a contributing resource to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible BARC Historic District (PG-62-14). Demolition of Building 11A will result in an adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and will require mitigation that will be included in the development of a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the BARC campus by the USDA-ARS. This will support the potential redevelopment of areas on the BARC campus making it more sustainable and supportive of new and ongoing research opportunities.

Because of technical issues, the public review period for the EA has been extended through May 14, 2021. A printed copy of the EA is available for review at the BARC, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 003, Room 009, Beltsville, MD 20705; College Park Community Library, 9704 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740; and Beltsville Branch Library, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705; and on-line at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/docs/environmental-assessment/>.

Anyone interested in commenting should submit their thoughts by May 14, 2021 to Bill Howl, BARC Point of Contact, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg. 003, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 or by email at bill.howl@usda.gov.

VACCINE continued from page 1

Byrd said the state had chosen, “on many occasions, to scapegoat people of color across the state as people who simply do not want the vaccine.” Byrd continued, “Nothing could be further from the truth,” noting many people of color and of all backgrounds have had “heartbreaking difficulty” getting vaccinated. He slammed the state and county rollout as having major flaws in registration systems, mass confusion and very long waits.

Congratulations

Byrd went on to emphasize that the new facility is federally run, thanking Congressmen Steny Hoyer and Anthony Brown for their roles, and praised the Biden administration’s choice of site. He praised those participating in the previous day’s rollout, which he had heard went seamlessly.

Reopening Criticisms

Byrd’s criticisms included accusing the governor of not following the science in reopening, as he said he would – stating Hogan ignored recent CDC concerns by reopening too soon. Byrd also noted that a former Trump Administration official (presumably Dr. Robert Redfield, CDC director from 2018 to 2021) is now a senior advisor on the state’s pandemic and vaccination rollout. Byrd averred that this individual’s “credibility on the vaccine and the pandemic in general is widely in question.”

Byrd also specifically criticized Hogan’s and Alsobrooks’ reopening plans, characterizing them as premature and raising the specter of more illness and more deaths from a potential fourth wave. He cited a rally held the same day at Eleanor Roosevelt High School by teacher Chrissy Wilkins, in which teachers were protesting being returned to classrooms under conditions they felt were unsafe.

In My City

Having spoken more than two and a half times as long as any other official, Byrd was asked to conclude, but repeatedly refused to stop. He dismissed Hogan, saying “You are in my city, good sir.” When the deputy executive director of the Maryland Emergency Management Administration attempted to cut him off, noting that the governor had other events scheduled, Byrd retorted, “You can definitely go to another event,” and continued speaking.

Hogan’s Response

In remarks on his own Facebook page, Byrd stated he would

“continue to work with” FEMA and others to increase vaccinations for county residents – implying that he could take credit for working with FEMA on establishing the Greenbelt Metro vaccination site. Likely aware of this statement, a clearly angry Hogan stated in his response to Byrd’s accusations that Byrd had not been involved in any way in negotiations placing the FEMA site in Greenbelt nor with any other sites.

Hogan also pointed out that Maryland had been praised twice that week by the Biden administration for leading the nation in terms of equity of vaccine distribution among diverse communities, and was ranked 15th among the 50 states in vaccine delivery. Hogan also rose to the defense of Maryland and Prince George’s County by saying that Byrd “denigrates the incredible partnership we’ve had with Prince George’s County and with our Equity Task Force, led by [Brigadier] General Birkhead, with our vaccine effort and this site.” Hogan said Byrd “didn’t have any idea what he was talking about.”

Asked to respond to Byrd’s comments, Alsobrooks said, “As public officials, it’s our job to deliver solutions,” going on to laud Birkhead’s critical role in establishing the FEMA site. Alsobrooks added, “It does not take very much talent to spot what’s wrong, it takes much more talent and commitment to fix it,” reminding the audience, “we’re here today to fix it.” The complete press conference can be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=oZ8lkr6FIc and lasts nearly 30 minutes.

The site will offer up to 3,000 vaccinations per day. Parking fees are waived at the Metro station for those getting the vaccine. Anyone age 16 or over can register at onestop.md.gov/govax or by calling 1-855-MD-GoVAX. Those already registered with the state do not need to pre-register again.

CENSURE continued from page 1

In all three votes, the majority consisted of Jordan, Davis, Mach and Councilmembers Silke Pope and Edward Putens, with Roberts and Byrd in the minority.

Roberts, while noting that he had not watched the press conference but had heard bits and pieces of it, declared that he was glad that Byrd spoke out. He charged that Governor Larry Hogan is “trying to destroy Greenbelt with the maglev and road widening” and that the governor has shown no respect for Greenbelt and the people who live here. He said that the city must hold Hogan, Representative Steny Hoyer and others to account for their actions that “will destroy our community.”

Byrd said that “to circumvent public input by not providing any notice to the council as a whole or the public, more importantly, that this was going to come up tonight is an extraordinary disservice to the people of Greenbelt.” He said council could just as easily have raised this issue, in a much more appropriate way at the next council meeting and called for justification of why it should be taken up at this meeting. Censuring him, he said, does not help the city. Instead, it will undermine the city’s position with these officials on a number of issues where the city needs to have a firm position advocating for our constituents. He said that it was highly problematic that council would be more focused on censure than on issues such as maglev and road widening. He also charged that some unnamed councilmembers were pushing this action due to personal animus toward him.

After the vote, several residents spoke on the issue. LaWann Stribling said that anyone who has a problem with what Byrd said has no respect for the people of Greenbelt. “Anyone who looks like me knows that [Hogan and Hoyer] do nothing for the well-being of people who look like me. For Mayor Byrd to speak



PHOTO BY SHARON NATOLI

Councilmember and former Mayor Emmett Jordan moved to formally censure Mayor Byrd for his behavior during the opening ceremony for the Greenbelt Metro Station mass vaccination site.

up about what they are lacking, there’s nothing wrong with that at all. For you to keep thinking that it’s okay to keep people who look like me oppressed, that we don’t have anything to say – it’s crap.”

Carla Johns said that Byrd was exercising freedom of speech. “He does represent me and what you are doing is disgraceful.” She assured Byrd that he had her support and that more people were for him than against him.

Michael Hartman said that not allowing people to speak on something this momentous is antidemocratic.

Former Councilmember Konrad Herling said that his concern, which he would have had with any councilmember who spoke as Byrd had done, was that it was not the appropriate time to make those remarks. He should, instead, have spoken to the governor and his staff in a separate setting.



Text of Council Censure

“The Greenbelt City Council formally censures Mayor Byrd for his behavior during the opening ceremony for the Greenbelt Metro Station mass vaccination site.

The Mayor is appointed by the City Council to perform ceremonial duties and speak on behalf of the Council and our residents. The Mayor failed to exercise discretion and decorum in carrying out the duties conferred upon him by Council and the City Charter.

During the ceremony, Mr. Byrd expressed his views as an individual in a context where his role was to speak as Mayor. As the ceremonial head of the City, he was expected to express gratitude to FEMA and to welcome the government leaders who were the City’s guests.

Instead, the majority of his chosen remarks were inappropriate to the nature of the event. His actions may negatively impact the City’s position with important stakeholders who are crucial to the prosperity and well-being of our community.

Therefore, the Council formally reprimands Mayor Byrd for his recent behavior in the hope that he will become mindful of his responsibilities in representing Greenbelt going forward.”



KEEP CALM AND WEAR A MASK

Arboretum Herbarium Series: Pressing Matters

On Thursday, April 22 at 2 p.m. the National Arboretum’s Herbarium curator, Harlan Svoboda, Ph.D., will present the first installment of Pressing Matters: A Library of Plants. In this virtual, behind-the-scenes tour, learn how experts curate and maintain 800,000 dried plant specimens from all over the world and why they are valuable resources for researchers.

This free program requires pre-registration. For more information email programs.USNA@usda.gov.



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Pre-order Dinner 301-474-0522 by 1 pm. Pick-up Dinner between 4-7 pm.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery
April 2, 6:15 p.m., Cherrywood Lane near Greenbelt Metro Drive. A woman’s backpack was pulled from her shoulder as she was walking down the street.

Assault
April 4, 12:22 a.m., Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive. Some people were driving behind a man and after a traffic altercation he exited his vehicle and pointed what the people in the other vehicle believed to be a handgun, at them. The man was located in the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane but no weapon was located.

Fraud
April 4, 5:53 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. A woman said she believes she lost her credit card. It was used later to make unauthorized purchases.

April 4, 7:43 p.m., 9152 Edmonston Road. A woman said that on April 3 she received a phone call from someone who claimed to be with her bank. The caller told the woman that someone had fraudulently used her account to make a purchase on Amazon and that she needs to cancel the transaction and transfer money from her bank account to a gift card. She did so and gave the card information to the caller. The caller then took the funds from the cards.

Theft
April 1, 3:55 p.m., 60 block Ridge Road. A witness saw a young man take a blue 24” bicycle from the front yard of their residence and ride away on it.

April 1, 8:18 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. An unattended cell phone was taken at Marshall’s while the woman was shopping. A witness saw an adolescent take it and leave the area.

April 2, 1 p.m., 7200 Mathew Street. A trashcan was taken from the driveway of a residence.

April 6, 11 a.m., 7200 Hanover Drive. A suitcase was taken from a man’s room at the Holiday Inn.

Burglary
April 5, 6:36 p.m., 6152 Springhill Terrace. Shoes, a tele-

vision, notebook computer, money and other items were taken from a residence.

Vandalism
April 1, 3:15 p.m., 9148 Edmonston Road. A rock was thrown at a bedroom window of a residence, breaking it.

April 1, 12:21 a.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. A cashier at Healthy Living saw a man push a jar of herbs off a shelf onto the floor, breaking it. He then fled.

April 6, 9:52 p.m., 9328 Edmonston Road. A rock was thrown at a kitchen window of a residence and broke it.

Vehicle Crime
Two motorcycles were stolen. One is a white 2010 Yamaha R6 with Maryland tag 144Y77, taken from 2 Court Laurel Hill Road on April 3. The other is a 2012 Suzuki, taken April 1 and recovered April 3 by Prince George’s County Police in the 6700 block El Paso Street in Hyattsville.

Two vehicles were stolen. A turquoise 4-door 2007 Ford Crown Victoria with Maryland tags 1BR4082 was taken April 4 from Springhill Court near Edmonston Terrace. A silver 2020 Honda CRV with Maryland temporary tag T0115802 was stolen after it was left unlocked and with the engine running.

Three vehicles were recovered. A 2019 BMW 530-I reported stolen in Columbus, Ohio, was recovered April 1 at 9113 Edmonston Terrace. A 4-door 2008 Nissan Altima stolen March 30 from the 6000 block Greenbelt Road was recovered April 2 by New Carrollton Police in the 6000 block 85th Avenue. A 2005 Toyota Prius stolen March 30 from 5903 Cherrywood Lane was recovered by Prince George’s County Police near Chapel Oaks and Dunbar Oaks Drives.

Rear Maryland tag 7DK6572 was taken at 6001 Springhill Drive. A car jack was also taken.

Eight handicap placards were stolen from four vehicles in different locations after windows had been broken out to gain access. Windows were broken out in three other areas.

Mail-related Check Fraud
The Greenbelt Police Department is investigating several recent incidents of mail-related check fraud in Greenbelt. These crimes involve the placing of letters containing checks in a mailbox.

The criminal then gains possession of the letters but it is not known at this time if the letters are stolen from mailboxes or intercepted at the Post Office. The check amounts and other information is then altered and the checks are deposited into someone else’s account.

The recent letters were placed in the following locations:

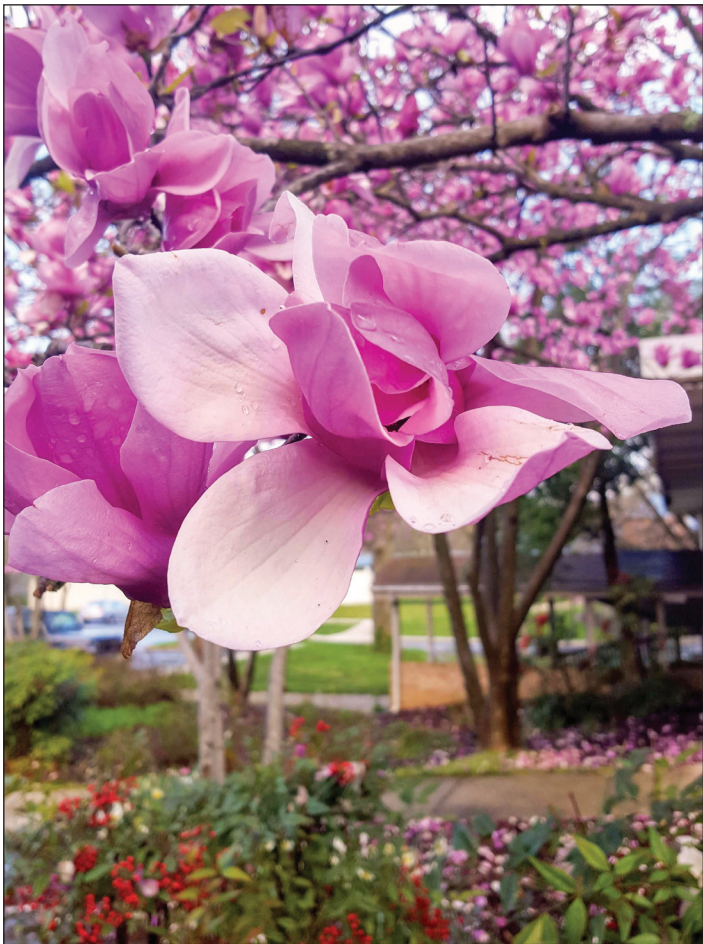
- Plateau Place at Ridge Road
- Lakeside Drive at Crescent Road
- 16 Court Ridge Road
- Hillside and Northway Roads
- 7600 block Ora Glen Drive (outside the Greenbelt postal facility).

Police recommended that residents work directly with both their banking institution and the companies to whom they write checks to in order to set up on-line bill paying. Also, check your bank statements to ensure that your checks are made out to your intended recipients. Those who believe they have been affected by this type of fraud should contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

Listening Skills For Relationships
The Prince George’s Community Collaborative Resolution Center (PGCCRC) and Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy are holding a virtual learning series designed to help improve relationships with the individuals who matter the most.

Collaborative Listening for Relationship Building, a four-part series, began April 10. The goal is to help families and individuals in Greenbelt and the surrounding area develop tools to better communicate in ways that strengthen their relationships, even when conversations are hard. The free series will take place virtually on four consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, with the remaining sessions as follows: April 17, Speaking When Emotions Are High; April 24, Asking Questions That Encourage Understanding; May 1, Brainstorming for Agreements and Resolutions.

All sessions can be accessed through Eventbrite at eventbrite.com; type in “collaborative listening.” For more information, contact the PGCCRC at pgresolutioncenter@gmail.com.



Flowers bloom in Roosevelt Center.

PHOTO BY RAHUL MEHTA



A Great Blue Heron and turtles

PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



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LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT WANTED – Evenings and weekends. Guaranteed income. Please send experience and availability to greenbeltbroker@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE
SENIOR SEEKING senior to share condo in Greenbelt. Rent negotiable. No pets allowed. Interested parties should contact Joe Stith at (202) 550-8277.

SERVICES
PATTI'S PETSITTING – By a Professional Animal Care Specialist. All types of animals! Insured! Reasonable rates! References available. Patti, 301-910-0050.

MISSY'S DECORATING – Serving Greenbelt for over 30 years. Interior painting. Free estimates. MHIC #26409. Insured. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

LAWN & ORDER is offering a new yard care guarantee to the Greenbelt community: any grasses, bushes and hedges we cut or trim over the next several months are guaranteed to grow back! And if they don't, Lawn & Order pledges to not cut or trim them again! So be the 1st on your block or court to enjoy the benefits of our 'no growth no cut' policy by calling Dennis at 240-264-7638 and please remember to stay safe. (Crews are 100% vaccinated).

FRANK'S VIDEO CONVERSION – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies slides to DVD. LP records to CD. (H) 240-295-3994, (C) 703-216-7293.

HOUSECLEANING – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area! Week, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

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LEW'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

YARD SALES
BOXWOOD VILLAGE (Greenbelt) Community Yard Sale, Saturday/Sunday, April 24th/25th, 9 a.m. to Noon. Maps with the addresses of participating families will be provided at the playground at the corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes in Greenbelt starting at 8:30 a.m. each day.

Overpayments Policy

To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, effective March 25, 2021, the News Review will accumulate overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contribute the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.



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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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MOLD continued from page 1

mold-covered bins and chairs as well as discolored ceiling tiles.

“The teachers are concerned for a reason,” she said, emphasizing that the state of the building affects people’s spirits as well as health concerns with dirt and mold. “You walk into a nice building and you feel light. When the school is in bad shape, it just feels bad. I’m depressed just walking in there.”

Pope brought the issue to the city council’s attention and council wrote to Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) CEO Monica Goldson asking about Covid-19 protocols for all Greenbelt schools, but emphasized the age of the building and the difficulties facing Springhill Lake.

Goldson’s reply listed the protocols schools are using, including HVAC filters and face shields for teachers, some of which had not arrived at Springhill Lake Elementary at press time. The News Review also reached out to Principal Wilson who referred the questions to the PGCPS office of communication. The office replied with a list and timeline of repairs

completed.

But the problems facing Springhill Lake Elementary go beyond the pandemic. The building and its temporary classrooms have perpetual problems, according to McQuarrie and Pope, and one of the reasons is that there are too few custodians for the 900 students in the school.

“We have a large school with many issues, and we have as few as one custodian on duty at a time. We need a full custodial staff to have a chance to keep up with the new Covid protocols, as we don’t have enough custodians to do the basic cleaning. This, as far as I know, is not the fault of the current custodial staff, but one of hiring enough people for the job,” wrote McQuarrie.

About a third of the students are expected to return to the building and McQuarrie said he is glad to see them.

“I love Springhill Lake. I simply want a building that not only now, during these difficult pandemic times, but also in a year more resembling normalcy, keeps students safe and does not interrupt their education.”

Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Silver Diner Job Fair April 22

With the hope of getting interest from those wanting employment, the Silver Diner restaurant is holding a company-wide Job Fair on Thursday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each of its locations. The Greenbelt Silver Diner is at Beltway Plaza.

Employment opportunities include servers, line cooks, host/

hostess, dishwashers, bussers, soda clerks, to-go cashiers and bartenders. Part-time and full-time positions are available with flexible hours. Entry level servers can make up to \$750 per week. To learn more about Silver Diner, or for employment information, visit silverdiner.com.

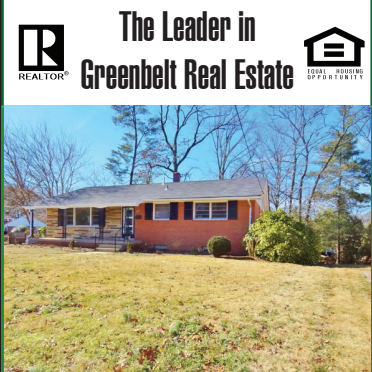
Co-op Vaccine Distribution Plans Derailed by Concerns

The sign on the door of the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket advertises that its pharmacy is giving Covid-19 shots and this should have been the case, but a conversation with pharmacy staff reveals that the vaccine that was to have been distributed was Johnson & Johnson. Unfortunately, this is the vaccine whose distribution has recently been halted as claims of connection

to a rare blood clot disorder are investigated.

Further news on Co-op vaccination status can be found on its website and Facebook page. At the moment, the Facebook page notes that the Co-op is in the process of informing those who had appointments scheduled and will provide further information when it is available.

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Addition With Full Bath Downstairs 2 BR GHI townhome with large family room/bedroom on main level. Completely remodeled - opened kitchen.

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Cape Cod Home Investors - priced to sell! 3Br 1 1/2 Bath home with large fenced back yard, dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900

Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced back yard, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br cond. w/ 1 1/2 baths! Parquet flooring, remodeled kit. With SS appliances. \$149,900

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome, remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen, full size washer. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

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PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

This red-shouldered hawk may not have been early, but he got the worm.

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Kyla Looks for Shortcuts

by Kyla Hanington

I guess the News Review is familiar with the quote, oft-attributed to Bill Gates, that says “I will always choose a lazy person to do a difficult job because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it,” because they asked me to write an article about shortcuts in Greenbelt. To be honest with you, finding shortcuts is something I am very good at, but unfortunately, they hamstrunged me slightly by asking me to find official shortcuts. Apparently, they suspected otherwise I’d just cut across your lawn and then yell, “found one!”

I find it interesting that an article about shortcuts involved me having to walk so very, very far. The thing about official shortcuts is they’re only good if you know about them, and it turns out it’s a lot easier to know about official shortcuts if you live near one than if you’re just wandering about aimlessly hoping for the best. But to save you from that, here is what I have found (so far):

Stairway to . . .

There’s a staircase that leads from Greenhill Road to the turnaround at the top of Periwinkle Court. My buddy Anne told me she’d show me where it was but when my daughter Findley and I needed something to do, we decided to walk there ourselves. Findley used to take this staircase so she was confident she could find it, which she told me repeatedly as we walked down Greenhill from Laurel Hill Road.

Her: It’s the first road from the Baptist Church.

Me (who had never taken nor seen this staircase): I’m pretty sure it’s at the end of Empire Place.

Her: No, I’m sure it’s the first road from the church because I used to get confused where it was and that’s how I remember.

Me: Let’s try Empire.

Sounds of frustrated walking.

Me: Maybe it’s the next one.

Sounds of increasingly frustrated walking.

Me: Or, like, this next one.

At about here – on our third attempted cul-de-sac – I was tempted to engage in a little light trespassing and simply cut through someone’s yard on Orange Court into the yard of someone else on Greentree, but good sense and my inability to vault fences stopped me, and Findley and I walked to the fourth – or, as she put it, the first from the church – cul-de-sac, Greentree Place, where lo and behold we did indeed find the staircase up to Periwinkle. At this point I was pretty much done in but managed to pull myself up it, only to then find myself at the top of Periwinkle with a lot of walking yet to be done to get home. For those of you who want to visit a friend, get some steps in, or (spoiler alert), find a geo-cache, this long and ancient-feeling staircase is accessible at the end of Greentree Place (to go up) or Periwinkle Court (to go down).

Near Schrom Hills Park

I had been to Schrom Hills Park before for the News Review, when investigating places to go walking, and I had a pretty good idea there might be some official shortcuts there, so Dan and I headed off optimistically on Sunday. Because it was early and

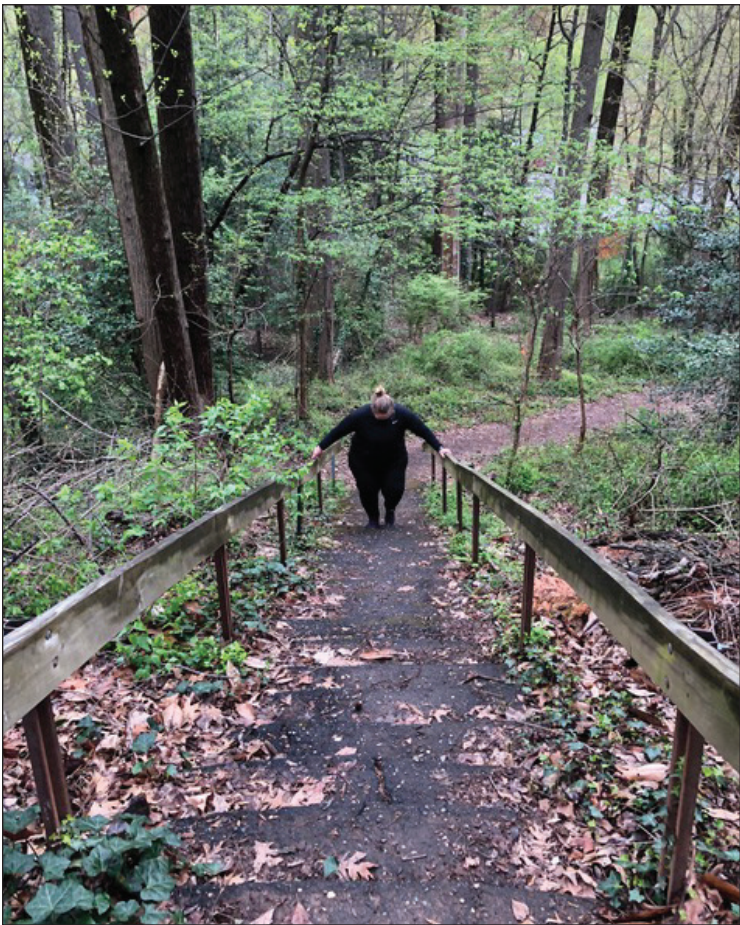


PHOTO BY FINDLEY HOLLAND

Kyla is not loving the staircase!

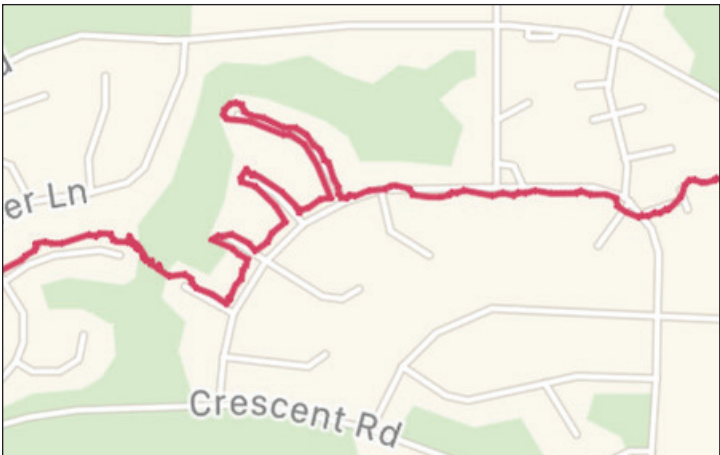


PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Kyla should have listened to Findley.

we had drunk a lot of coffee, we thought it would be fun to walk in the way Robert Goldberg-Strassler did for the HUG Walk. We headed up Greenbelt Road to Frankfort Dr. to Ora Glen Dr., then to Mathew St., Megan Lane, and lastly Craddock Rd., where a pathway at the end of the cul-de-sac dropped us down into Schrom Hills. Things were going fairly well until Dan pointed out a path that led to the right and said, “one day we should explore there,” which I took to mean, “we should explore that right now.” So we did.

This is probably a delightful shortcut if it hasn’t rained torrentially the night before, but as it was I took a mud bath, so consider yourself warned. What we did discover was a wonderful collection of pathways, replete with bridges and fauna, that run behind Greenbrook Village homes and which brought us back up to Mathew Street, eventually. By the time we got back to Schrom Hills Park, Dan and I were a bit worn out but in the interest of finding shortcuts we persevered.

There’s a long road that extends past the soccer field and that dead ends at a temporary fence; there is construction for stormwater management at the pond at Schrom Hills at the moment, but if there weren’t – and when it ends – I expect one can take that path parallel to Hanover Parkway for a fair distance. Instead, Dan and I walked down some banisterless stairs to Hanover Parkway and made it back to our starting point, truly grate-

ful for the opportunity to have explored such a beautiful neighborhood. So, thank you to Robert Goldberg-Strassler for his planning of the HUG walk back in 2019 and to all the good people of Windsor Green, Greenbrook Village and environs for having such beautiful streets (and paths) upon which we could walk.

Spellman Overpass

Probably the best short cut in all of Greenbelt is the Spellman Overpass. I love the Spellman Overpass. The Spellman Overpass is the greatest short cut in the history of shortcuts. You live on Mandan Road and want to go to the Library or the Aquatic Center? Cut through the high school or Greenbriar Park (another shortcut, stay tuned next week!) walk across the overpass, and Bob’s your uncle – you’re at the Library or the Aquatic Center. Or at least very close. You live on Ridge Road but your doctor is behind Greenway Center? No problem! Head over the Spellman Overpass, turn down Hanover Parkway, wait for the light to be in your favor, and there you have it. I have walked across the Spellman Overpass every day this week just because I love it so much and if you haven’t had the chance to do so yet, I encourage you to do the same.

Kyla Hanington’s hunt for shortcuts will continue.

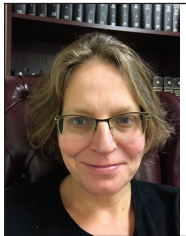


PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Kyla Hanington



Findley runs up the stairs toward Periwinkle Court.

- Photos by Kyla Hanington



A bridge on the path behind Schrom Hills Park



PHOTO BY CAROLYN LAMBRIGHT DAVIS

Members of the Earth Squad help straighten up the Three Sisters Demonstration Garden in Franklin Park.